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BEARD, MARY RITTER. Woman's Work in Municipalities. Pp. xi, 344. Price, \$1.50. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1915.

In her Woman's Work in Municipalities, Mary Ritter Beard has given us a comprehensive survey of the field. Her purpose, as outlined in the preface, is a fourfold one—to give some adequate idea of the kind and number of women's activities in cities and towns, and of the spirit in which they have undertaken their work; to show to women whose interests incline toward civic duty the interrelation of each particular effort with the big social problems; and to discuss the general tendencies of modern social work. The various chapters discuss in turn education, public health, the social evil, recreation, the assimilation of races, housing, social service, corrections, public safety, civic improvement, government and administration, describing in each case the extent and kind of women's work, and giving in every case concrete instances and examples. The study shows an immense amount of careful research, and the collection of a large quantity of of the author are more than satisfactorily carried out. The very completeness of the success in these two particulars, however, renders the drawing of general conclusion as to relations of kinds of work to each other, and the discussion of general tendencies in social work, exceedingly difficult.

The style of the book is easy and, except for the slight monotony of recounting so many similar details, the interest is well maintained throughout. The book will undoubtedly prove a great addition to the literature not only of the "woman question," but of civic and social activity.

NELLIE SEEDS NEARING.

Toledo, Ohio.

Bullock, Edna D. (Compiled by). Short Ballot. Pp. xviii, 160. Price, \$1.00. White Plains, N. Y.: The H. W. Wilson Company, 1915.

CROSBY, JOHN S. The Orthocratic State. Pp. 166. Price, \$1.00. New York: Sturgis and Walton Company, 1915.

This book accepts as its fundamental thesis that there are "natural human rights" consisting in "the essential relations of man to the earth and to his fellow men" and which "have their sanction in the universal instinct of self-preservation" (p. 34). Upon these human rights the science of government must be built. With this proposition as a basis the author decides that the functions of the government should include the taxation of land and land only as a source of revenue. One of the fundamental human rights is the right of man to "enjoy whatever nature has provided for the support of happiness or life." There can be no such enjoyment unless the unequal rights of men due to land ownership be equalized through land taxation. The maintenance of protective tariffs is "no function of government" because "they are not essential to peace but rather tend to disturb it" and because "they protect no man from the aggression of another but infringe upon the right of all men to a natural market." As one of the fundamental human rights is the right of persons to determine questions of their own locality, it is "an abuse of civil power for the state to require questions of merely local concern . . . . to be submitted for determination to persons

outside the locality concerned." "Abolish land monopoly," says the author, "protective tariffs, subsidies and patent-rights so-called, together with corporate privileges, the State assuming control of all public utilities, and there will not long remain any fortunes so large as to attract envious attention or as to enable their possessors to dominate the business world."

C. L. K.

Hadley, Arthur Twining. Undercurrents in American Politics. Pp. xii, 185. Price, \$1.35. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1915.

This is a popular and fairly vital discussion of some of the more important factors in actual political life. The lecture titles are: The Gradual Development of American Democracy, The Constitutional Position of the Property Owner, Recent Tendencies in Economics and in Legislation, Political Methods Old and New, The Reaction against Machine Control and The Seat of Power To-day. The best lecture is the one on the Constitutional Position of the Property Owner, in which President Hadley shows that the American political and social system is based on American industrial property rights, that these rights have been protected by constitutional compact and that we have had to date much industrial unrest but no industrial reform. There is nothing in the volume to indicate that President Hadley is personally opposed to any of the immediate present-day tendencies in social, industrial and political reform, provided only that ample returns be allowed to the railroads. He discusses interestingly the ineffectiveness of unorganized public opinion, the dangers of the invisible government, the power of the independent press and the necessity for such a civic organization as will make for a proper formulation of public opinion.

C. L. K.

Holmes, Fred L. Regulation of Railroads and Public Utilities in Wisconsin. Pp. xi, 375. Price, \$2.00. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1915.

As Wisconsin has been a pioneer in the field of railroad and public utility regulation by a state commission, no less a pioneer is the recent publication of Mr. Fred L. Holmes on the history and operation of the Wisconsin railroad and utility law. "The aim of this volume," to quote the author, "is to present the important facts of this history of railroad and public utility regulation; to analyze the chief problems confronting this system of control and to measure the accomplishments, industrially and politically." Although the study is restricted to a treatment of the Wisconsin situation, it may well serve as a text on the subject of regulation by state utilities. The treatment is not merely comprehensive but is clearcut and illuminating.

Of vital present interest among the topics treated are the subjects of physical valuation, rate of return, standardization of service, depreciation, making of rates, granting of permits, regulation of stocks and bonds, and state versus local control.

The reproduction theory of valuation, as adopted by the Wisconsin Commission, is clearly analyzed. "What the same company would earn under similar circumstances in competitive conditions" is a reasonable return, according to the